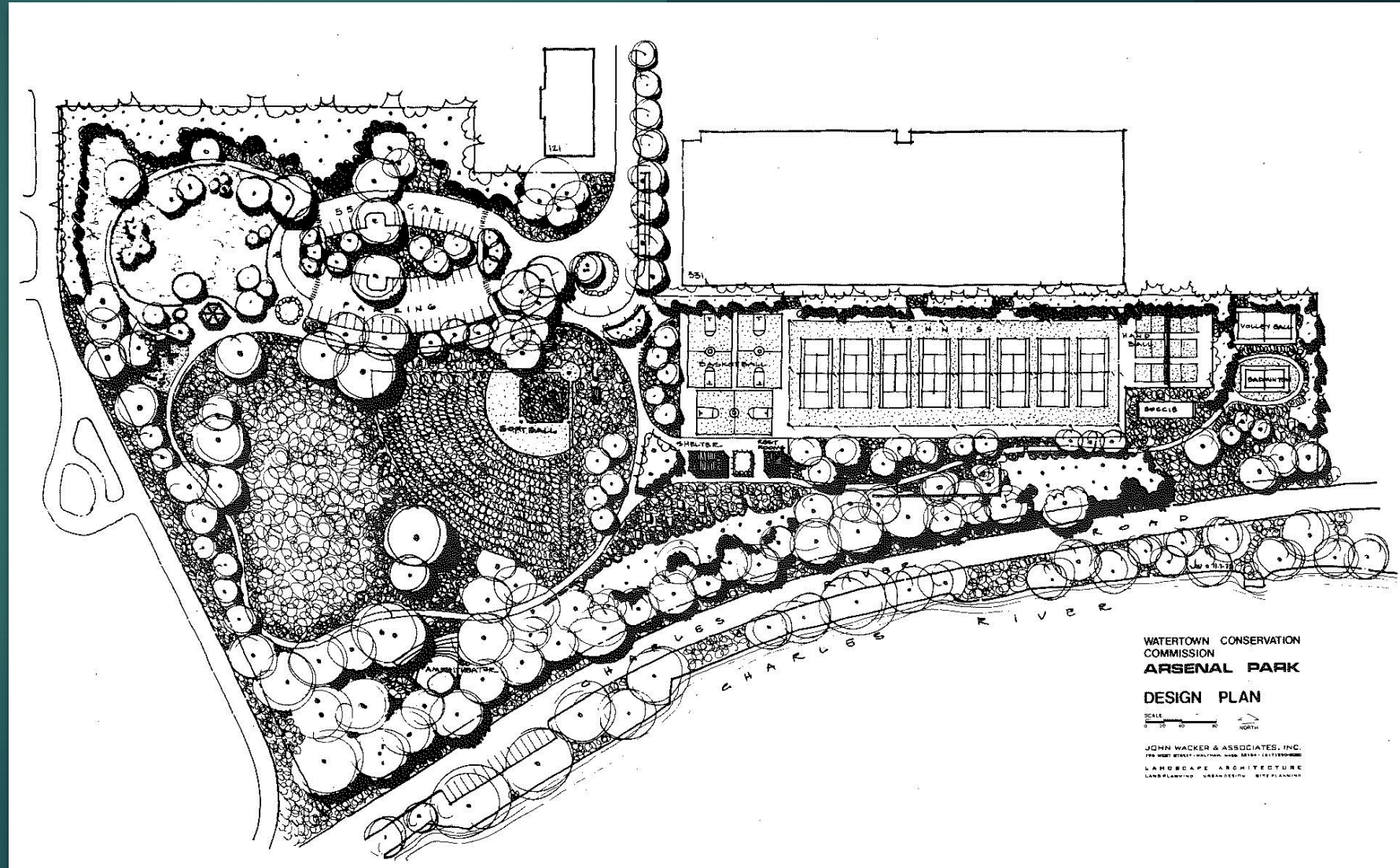


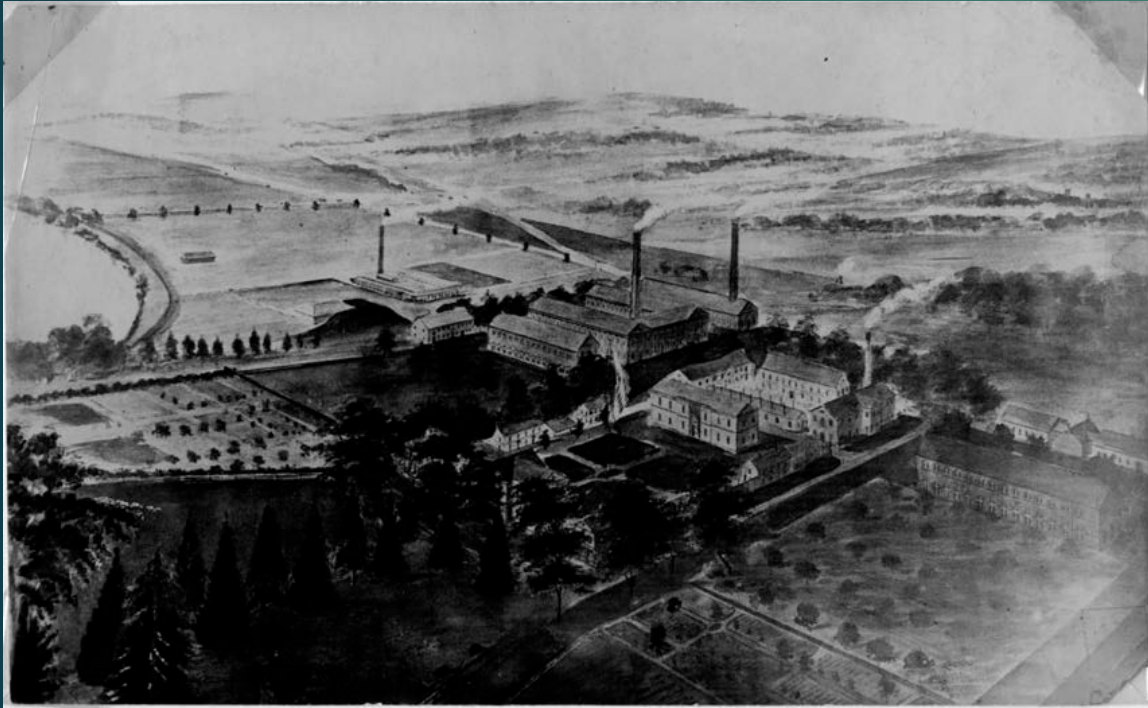
Arsenal Park Design | 2017

1. HISTORY OF SITE & PARK
2. CONSTRAINTS
3. CURRENT USES
4. POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS
5. BREAKOUT SESSION



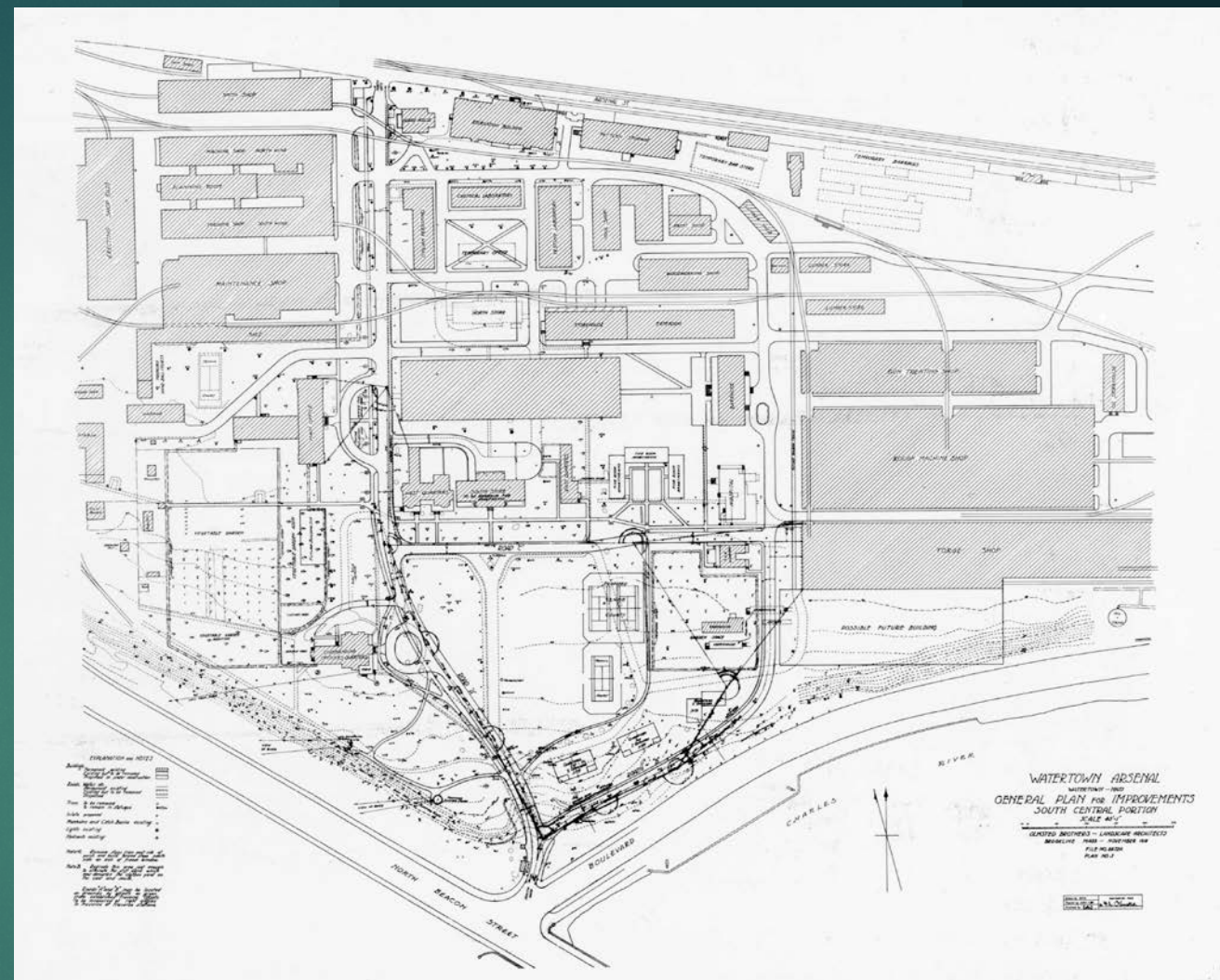
Site History

- Watertown Arsenal established in 1816
- Original site accessed through park area



Bird's-eye
Artist's view of the Arsenal grounds,
c. 1862, looking South + east.

1862 Bird's Eye showing park area in foreground



Olmsted Brothers Plan for Mansion and Recreation Area

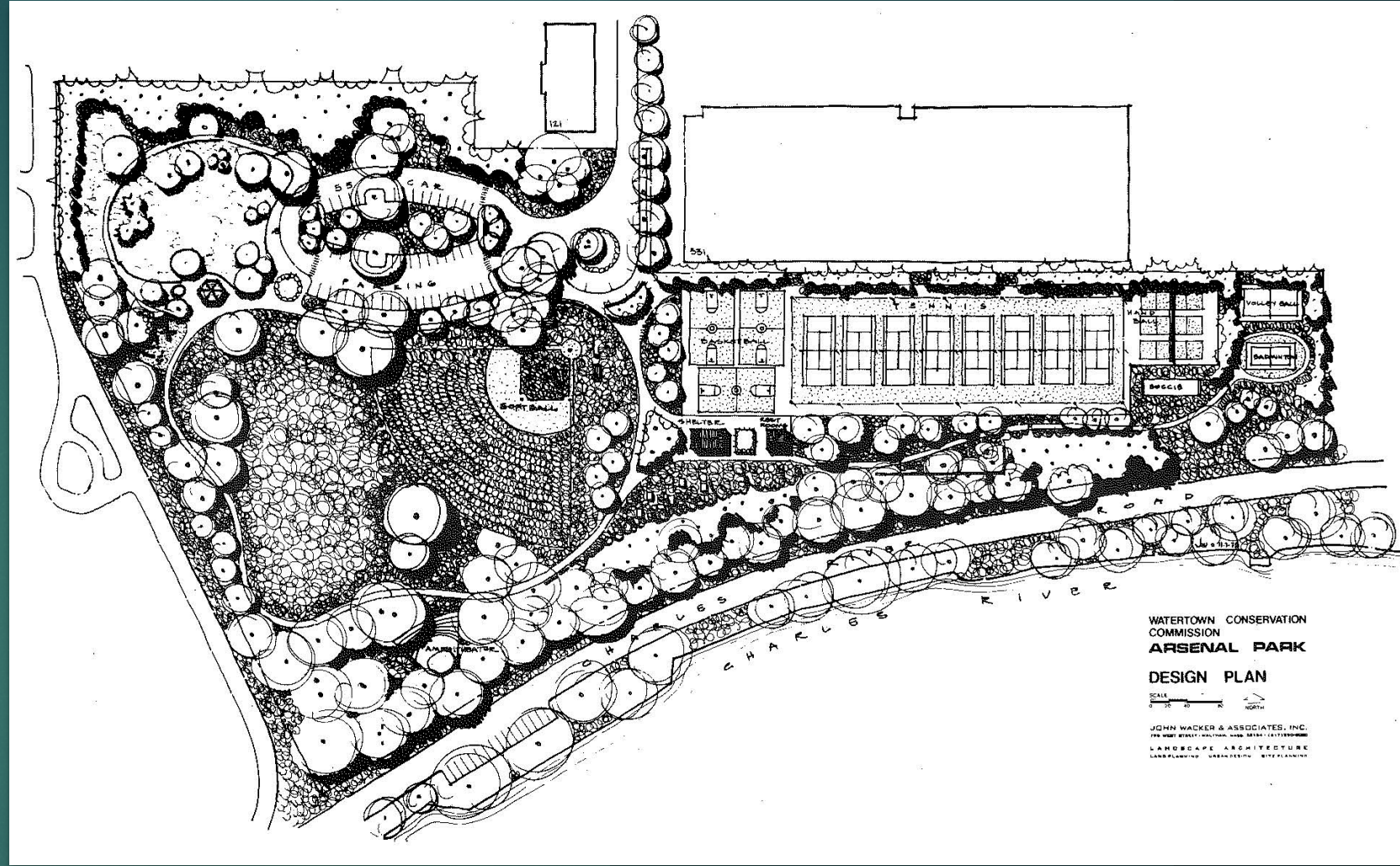
Site History



Source: athenahealth website - <http://thearsenalonthecharles.com/history/campus-growth/>

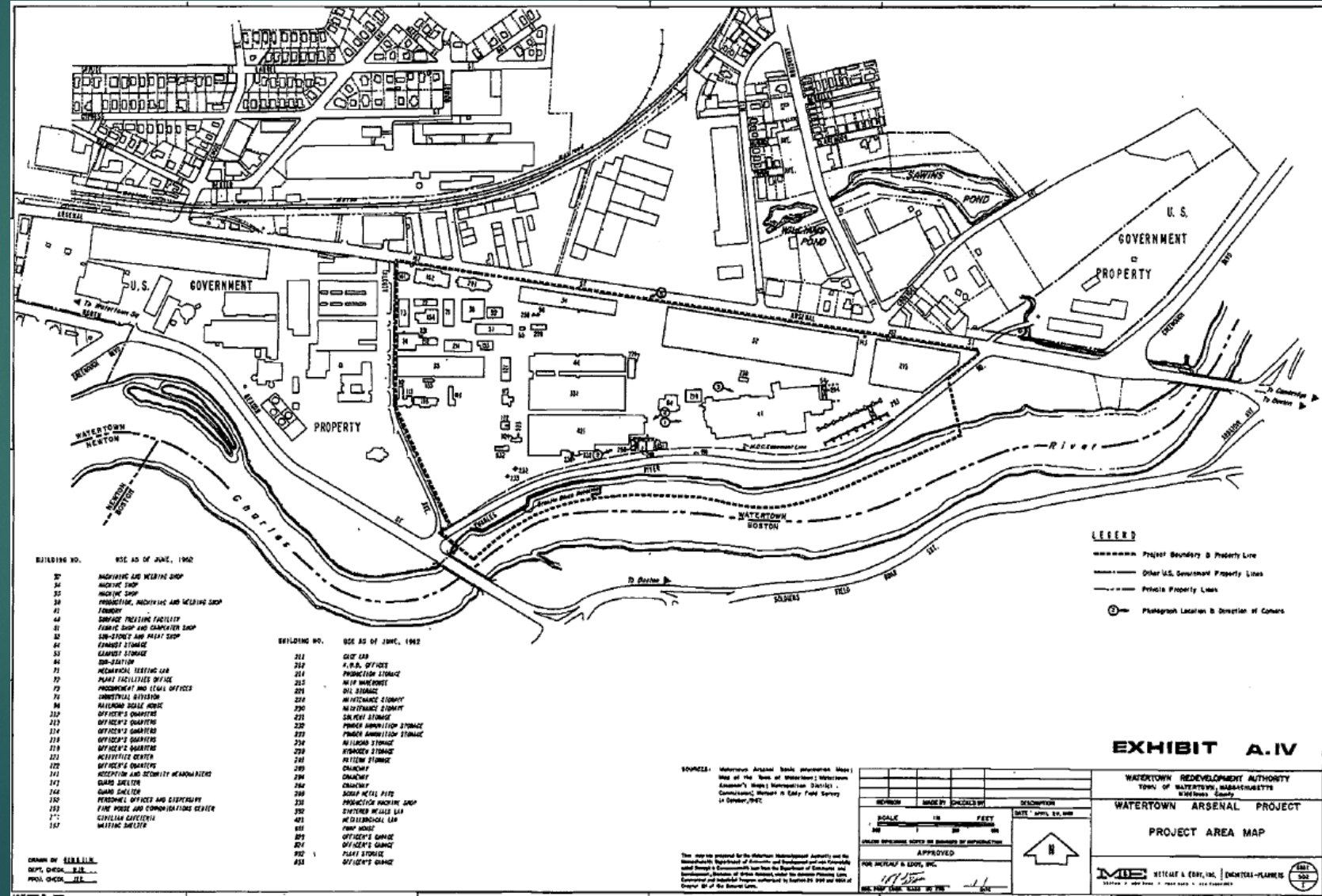
Park History

- 1966 – Reuse of Arsenal begins
- 1978 - Land Disposition for park land at \$1,875,000
- 9 buildings were within the park (all are demolished)
- Building 35 and 421 only demoed to slab (foundation remains)
- Final park is 13.68 Acres



Site Constraints

- Former building 421 slab and foundation (hard surface court area)
- Buried Foundations and utilities throughout site
- Historic features (fencing)
- Riverfront buffer
- Arsenal access easement
- Existing uses



Site Constraints



AERIAL VIEW OF WATERTOWN ARSENAL - 1939

Current Uses

- Cross-Country course
- Tot Lot
- Spray Park
- Picnic Tables (6 covered & 19 uncovered)
- Gazebos (2)
- Grills (9)
- Passive Paths and wooded areas
- Informal play areas
- Playfields
- Soccer
- Softball
- Basketball
- Community garden
- Skatepark
- Tennis Courts (6)
- Tennis Bang Boards (2)
- Volleyball Court (hard-surface)
- Bocce court (1)



Enhancements

- Lighting for fields
- Skate Park update/replacement
- Large Covered Pavilion
- Field Renovation
- Amphitheater (power and stage/backdrop)



Breakout Session – Question 1

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT A PARK LIKE THIS CAN BRING TO A COMMUNITY, WHAT IS IT THAT PEOPLE CAN EXPERIENCE THAT MAKES IT WORTHWHILE?

Breakout Session – Question 2

AS YOU THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF THE PARK, WHAT ENHANCEMENTS COULD YOU IMAGINE THAT WOULD HELP REALIZE THE POTENTIAL?

Breakout Summary – Report Out

- Think holistically (50 years)
- Protect forested areas
- soundproof amphitheater
- Tennis back board
- Covered and more picnic tables
- Added stormwater mitigation
- Keep current with needs
- Perimeter path in cinder or wood chips
- Mounding area near tennis courts for passive
- Reforest amphitheater since it doesn't work
- Add or relocate bathroom and playground
- Signage to get to park and parking is not enough
- Enhance east side (need activity and access)
- Lights- tennis and other areas for safety
- Remove couple of tennis courts for 6 yr olds
- Fountain and flower garden
- Connections to river
- Safety for walking at night
- New pool and constraints are not real
- Enclose tennis courts and provide viewing area
- East west and north south access ways through park
- Regular maintenance (sidewalks, picnic table, etc.)
- Splash pad should be enhanced expanded for visual interest
- More covered spaces
- More benches
- Bike racks throughout the park
- Bike path access needs to be thoughtfully designed
- Look at commander mansion and arsenal park together
- Tot lot near the eastern end entrance

Next Steps

- SECOND MEETING: SEPTEMBER 28 AT 6:30
(TO BE CONFIRMED)
- ENHANCEMENT AND DESIGN OPTIONS
- QUESTIONS?

Department of Community Development and Planning

gschreiber@watertown-ma.gov

617-972-6417